

**GOVERNOR'S TASK FORCE ON JUVENILE CORRECTIONS REFORM**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**Tuesday, January 18, 2005**  
**10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.**  
**Arizona State Capitol, Executive Tower**  
**Grand Canyon Conference Room, Basement**  
**Phoenix, Arizona**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Helene Abrams  
Eric Benjamin  
Lt. Manny Cota  
Jan Flaaten  
Tim Hardy  
Rep. Pete Hershberger  
Derrick Johnson  
Paul Koehler  
David McKell  
Judge Emmet Ronan  
Beth Rosenberg  
Leslie Schwalbe  
Cherie Townsend  
Sherri Walton

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Senator Bill Brotherton  
Collette Brumbaugh  
Nelba Chavez  
Terry Hance  
Judge Willardene Lewis  
Rob Lubitz  
David Miller  
Judge Anna Montoya-Paez  
Donna Noriega  
Margaret Trujillo  
Hon. Gilbert Veliz

**STAFF**

Michael Branham  
Marcella Crane  
Patti Cordova  
Oly Cowles  
Peggy Eggemeyer  
Pat Erickson  
Dianne Gadow  
Sandra Gonzalez  
Lou Goodman  
Kellie Warren  
Emily Wetter

**GUESTS**

Karen Abman  
Barry Fine  
Janet Garcia  
Russ Van Vleet  
Nicole Yancey

**I. Welcome and Review of Minutes**

Judge Emmet Ronan, Chair of the Governor's Task Force on Juvenile Corrections Reform, called the meeting to order. Members of the Task Force introduced themselves. Chairman Ronan welcomed Rev. Jan Flaaten, as a new member, to the Task Force.

**Motion: To approve the minutes of the November 2, 2004 meeting. The minutes were then seconded and approved.**

**II. Juvenile Corrections Update**

Director Branham introduced Alan Stephens, Chief of Staff to Governor Napolitano. Mr. Stephens remarked on the Governor's budget that was released on Friday, January 14, 2005. The budget included an additional \$6.7 million for ADJC to comply with the recommendations outlined in the CRIPA Agreement. These dollars would be part of the second phase in meeting those requirements, and would include such things as nurse coverage 24 hours a day-7 days a week, and a \$1000 pay increase for Youth Correctional Officers (YCO's). At this time the Joint Legislative Budget Committee (JLBC) has not released their budget. However it is important to keep in mind as the Legislative session continues, agency budgets are a work in progress.

Director Branham was pleased to report that the various vacant positions due to retirement, etc., and the Assistant Superintendent positions have been filled. In addition, the Leadership Team members of ADJC have been involved in a strategic planning session. The final document will outline goals with measurable objectives for a two-to-three year period. Some of the areas include continuous case planning for each youth, positive culture change, and protection of the public. Once the document has been finalized, it will be shared with the Task Force members.

### **III. CRIPA Monitoring Report-out**

Director Branham introduced Russ Van Vleet, lead consultant to the Department of Justice. Mr. Van Vleet addressed the Task Force members' request to have each consultant present at the Task Force meetings so as to provide updates from their respective areas. At this time, because of the nature of their work and specific deadlines to meet with the U.S. Department of Justice, Mr. Van Vleet felt it would be more appropriate for the Task Force members to address any of their questions or comments to himself directly instead of contacting each consultant. The first report, due March 15 will compile six months of review of documents corresponding directly to the five areas outlined in the CRIPA Agreement. The report will be used as a baseline and each area will be addressed in terms of the degree of compliance (full, partial or non-compliance). Each consultant has visited ADJC at various times and has met with key staff to gather the necessary information.

### **IV. ADJC Medical and Behavioral Health Services**

Dr. Kellie Warren was introduced by Deputy Director Dianne Gadow. In Dr. Warren's short tenure with the Department, she has undertaken the vast responsibility to improve and strengthen the Department's clinical and medical services to youth in our care. Dr. Warren's presentation covered a national perspective of youth with mental health needs and a profile of an ADJC youth in our care with acute and specialized needs. She then detailed the specific assessment tools that will be utilized by trained staff for youth that are committed to our Department, during the Reception, Assessment and Classification (RAC) system. Dr. Warren addressed questions from the Task Force members after her presentation.

- Sherri Walton asked how will ADJC address the gap if much of the emphasis is on community-based services for youth as they reenter to the community, as funding for those services may be limited?

Dr. Warren stated that partnerships with key agencies have been ongoing and will continue to address the need for community services. In addition, ADJC will work with others to develop those services in the community.

- Paul Koehler asked how the Department compiles and utilizes existing data (assessments, reports) on a youth that is committed to ADJC.

Dr. Warren: Stated that certain assessments are not used because they are not current or were not available. Therefore, each youth will undergo a first tier of assessments, and, if necessary, a second tier of assessments depending on the need. In addition, clinical and education staff are working closely to receive current school documents on each youth from the county courts and the school districts. From each assessment that is done, it will be analyzed and compiled into a report. That report will be the basis for the case plan that will be established for each youth. Dr. Warren stated that she is hopeful that every assessment and data will be electronically submitted. In addition, every staff will be trained on the variety of assessment tools by the end of April, 2005.

- Dr. Eric Benjamin wanted to know if the Department had psychiatric treatment available.

Dr. Warren advised that each safe school has a licensed Psychiatrist who is a part of the treatment team that will develop and review a youth's case plan.

- Derrick Johnson inquired into what the average length of stay of a youth was at ADJC, and if we felt it was adequate time for staff to treat a youth effectively.

Dr. Warren informed that the average length of stay within secure care is approximately nine months. Dr. Warren is confident that treatment of youth can and should begin at the moment a youth is committed to the Department. From the case plan that is developed and reviewed periodically, it will follow each youth when they are on parole.

- Helene Abrams asked what type of coordination is done for youth that are close to aging out of the juvenile justice system or who are released at their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Dr. Warren stated that no matter at what age the youth is committed to the Department, services will be provided. The coordination with community providers is especially important for those that are close to 18 or are released and given assistance when released back to the community.

- Alan Stephens stated that Arizona should do more to bring in additional Medicaid dollars to help with youth and families. Mr. Stephens wanted to know how Arizona fared with New Jersey, where Dr. Warren previously worked.

Dr. Warren explained that her experience in Arizona has so far been positive and there is not a lot of "turf battles" or barriers to overcome, as she has seen before in other states. However, she is concerned about the lack of funding for residential treatment programs that is occurring across the country and would like Arizona to address that concern.

- David McKell stated that a large concern is that rural counties often have to prioritize limited funding and services for youth and families. Therefore, transitioning youth back to their community can be difficult due to inadequate funding for services. In addition, if the shortage of funding is not adequately addressed, it may turn out that juvenile courts will commit more youth to ADJC.
- Beth Rosenberg stated that the juvenile justice system needed to address if youth are better served in the detention or in a correctional system, instead of providing community-based services. Many youth that are currently sent to ADJC would be treated better if they were in the community.
- Tim Hardy stated that he was pleased to hear about the positive changes occurring at ADJC. He is also concerned about the lack of funding for community-based services for youth.
- Cherie Townsend stated that the Task Force members and our other colleagues need to continue to be strong advocates for children and families and to continue working together with other agencies.

#### **V. Possible Site visits – Missouri/Utah**

Utah and Missouri have been touted as national models in juvenile correctional reform. Task Force members have expressed an interest in visiting their sites to determine what “best practices” can be implemented in Arizona. After much discussion on which state to visit, it was decided that staff will do a cost analysis on each state. Each member who expresses an interest in visiting one of the states should determine if their agency will pay for the costs. Director Branham is deciding to conduct these visits in March, 05.

#### **VI. Sub-Committee Discussion – Education, Mental Health, Policy, System Reform**

Judge Ronan stated that from the previous Task Force meeting, it was decided to have three sub-committees established to work on the issues of Education, Mental Health, and Juvenile Justice Systemic Reform. Task Force members were asked to sign up for either one of the sub-committees. A chair for each sub-committee will be chosen by Judge Ronan.

- Leslie Schwalbe stated that the Policy sub-committee has met with ADJC Policy staff to provide input on ADJC’s policies and procedures. Ms. Schwalbe would like to have this sub-committee meet again.

Director Branham requested that Ms. Schwalbe and Sherri Walton meet with Deputy Director Dianne Gadow, Esteban Veloz, Marie Dils and himself to go over the sub-committee’s role. A meeting date will be determined.

- Paul Koehler wanted to know how the AIMS test is being applied to ADJC. He also informed the Task Force members that Governor Napolitano is working closely with the Superintendent of Education, Tom Horne, to provide an additional \$10 million to assist school districts in providing tutoring to academically challenged youth to pass the AIMS test. It would be important to investigate if ADJC is eligible for part of that funding.

Lou Goodman, Legal Advisor to ADJC, stated that ADJC does have to comply with the requirement that ADJC youth must take the AIMS test and would be interested in finding out more about seeking additional dollars for this requirement. Mr. Goodman also stated that much of Title 15 does not apply to ADJC, but that we do work closely with the Department of Education.

## **VII. Public Comment**

No public comment was made at this meeting.

## **VIII. Miscellaneous**

The next meeting will be scheduled according to the consultants' schedule. A notice will be sent out at a later date.

The meeting was adjourned by Judge Emmet Ronan, Chair.

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